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NEWS.

MISS JULIA SNOW, Ph.D. (Zürich) has been appointed Instructor in Botany in the University of Michigan.

MR. JOHN DONNELL SMITH sailed for Europe about the middle of March, expecting to be absent until the middle of October. He will divide his time between Spain and England.

JAMES BATEMAN, whose monumental work on the orchids of Mexico and Guatemala is one of the sights of the great libraries, died November 27, 1897, at his home in Springbank, near London, at the age of 86.

THE NEW *Journal of Applied Microscopy* has begun a series of articles on "Representative American laboratories." The first ones to be described are those of Cornell University, in the February number of the journal.

SIR JOSEPH HOOKER'S great work on the Flora of British India has at last been completed, a work which has been in mind and in hand more or less since 1848, when the author made a botanical investigation of the Himalayas.

DR. JOHN M. COULTER, of the University of Chicago, and Dr. Douglas H. Campbell, of Leland Stanford University, have recently been elected associate fellows in the section of botany of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston.

WITH THE BEGINNING of the year the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* passed under an entirely new editorial management. The organization is as follows: *Editor*, Lucien Marcus Underwood; *Associate editors*, Carlton Clarence Curtis, Byron David Halsted, Arthur Hollick, Marshall Avery Howe, Francis Ernest Lloyd, and Anna Murray Vail.

THE PRICE LISTS of native ornamental plants from the nurseries of Edward Gillett, of Southwick, Mass., and F. H. Horsford, of Charlotte, Vt., have recently come to hand. These dealers, as well as a number of others, offer a surprisingly large number of interesting plants, that are often desirable for illustrative material. If teachers knew how cheaply and easily such plants as Drosera, Dionœa, Sarracenia, etc., as well as asters, solidagos, ferns, etc., can be obtained, and how little trouble they are to grow in the garden or greenhouse, it is probable that classes would oftener have the opportunity to see the living plants.

DR. CHARLES R. BARNES has been appointed Professor of Plant Physiology in the University of Chicago. His laboratories will be equipped during the summer, and his courses will begin with the autumn quarter. The work of the Hull Botanical Laboratory has been largely morophological heretofore, and it is now proposed to put equal emphasis upon physiology, including ecology.

A STUDY of the ecological plant geography of Kansas has been made by Professor A. S. Hitchcock, and was presented before the Academy of Science of St. Louis at the meeting of February 7. The paper was referred to the council for publication. At the same meeting Professor L. H. Pammel discussed the taxonomic value of the anatomical character of seeds, a study which has engaged his attention for some years past.

THE PAPER on "Bibliographical difficulties in botany," read by Professor Edward L. Greene before the Botanical Society of America at its Toronto meeting, has been distributed as a reprint from the *Catholic University Bulletin* 4: 62–75. 1898. The paper was very briefly summarized in BOTANICAL GAZETTE 24: 183–185, 1897. It should be read in its complete form by all those who are engaged in determining the real names of plants.

THE EDIBLE and poisonous mushrooms are being studied in regard to their physiological action as food by a commission of the American Physiological Society, consisting of Professors Crittenden (Yale), Abel (Johns Hopkins), Pfaff (Harvard), and Bowditch (Harvard). Their first report was made to the society at its recent meeting in Ithaca, and brought out the statement that the edible fungi do not contain nearly as much digestible proteids as they are usually credited with, and that their food value in this respect has been overrated.

THE FOLLOWING PRIZES for botanical work were awarded by the Académie des Sciences of Paris, at its annual public session January 10: *Prix Desmazières* (1600 fr.) to Professor Jakob Eriksson for observations on the rust of cereals; *Prix Montagne* (1500 fr.) to Professor Bourquelot for his work on the physiology of mushrooms; *Prix Thore* (200 fr.) one-half to M. Sappin-Trouffy for investigations on the development of the Uredineæ; *Prix Gay* (2500 fr.) to Charles Flahault for his study of the geographical distribution of the French Mediterranean flora.

THE NUMBER of persons officially designated as "botanists" or "mycologists," who are at present connected with the agricultural experiment stations of the United States, is fifty, according to a recent government bulletin.[1] Fourteen of these bear in addition the title of horticulturist, entomologist, or chemist; while two have executive duties specified. The full list is as follows:

[1] Organization lists of the agricultural experiment stations and institutions with courses in agriculture in the United States. Bull. 47. Office of Exper. Sta., Wash. Gov. Printing Office, 1898, pp. 96.

State	Name	Official title
Alabama	P. H. Mell, Ph.D.	Bot.
Arizona	J. W. Toumey, B.S.	Bot., Ent., and acting Dir.
California	W. A. Setchell, Ph.D.	Bot.
"	J. B. Davy	Asst. Bot.
Colorado	C. S. Crandall, M.S.	Bot. and Hort.
Connecticut	Wm. C. Sturgis, Ph.D.	Myc.
Delaware	F. D. Chester, M.S.	Myc.
Idaho	L. F. Henderson	Bot.
Illinois	T. J. Burrill, Ph.D.	Bot. and Hort.
"	G. P. Clinton, M.S.	Bot.
Indiana	J. C. Arthur, D. Sc.	Bot.
"	William Stuart, B.S.	Asst. Bot.
Iowa	L. H. Pammel, M.S.	Bot.
"	C. R. Ball, B.S.	Asst. Bot.
"	Robt. Combs, B.S.	Asst. Bot.
Kansas	A. S. Hitchcock, M.S.	Bot.
"	Geo. L. Clothier, B.S.	Asst. Bot.
Kentucky	H. Garman	Bot. and Ent.
Louisiana	W. R. Dodson, M.A.	Bot.
Maine	F. L. Harvey, Ph.D.	Bot. and Ent.
Massachusetts	Geo. E. Stone, Ph.D.	Bot.
"	Ralph E. Smith, B.S.	Asst. Bot.
Michigan	C. F. Wheeler, B.S.	Consulting Bot.
Minnesota	Otto Lugger, Ph.D.	Bot. and Ent.
Mississippi	G. W. Herrick, B.S.	Bot. and Ent.
"	J. S. Moore, M.S.	Asst. Bot.
Missouri	C. H. Thompson, B.S.	Asst. Bot.
Montana	H. S. Jennings, Ph.D.	Bot.
Nebraska	C. E. Bessey, Ph.D.	Bot.
Nevada	F. H. Hillman, M.S.	Bot. and Ent.
New Jersey	B. D. Halsted, D.Sc.	Bot. and Hort.
New York (Cornell)	G. F. Atkinson, Ph.B.	Bot.
" "	B. M. Duggar, M.S.	Asst. Crypt. Bot.
" (Geneva)	F. C. Stewart, M.S.	Myc.
North Carolina	C. W. Hyams	Asst. Bot.
North Dakota	H. L. Bolley, M.S.	Bot.
"	Merton Field, B.S.	Asst. Bot.
Ohio	A. D. Selby, B.S.	Bot. and Chem.
Oklahoma	E. E. Bogue, M.S.	Bot. and Ent.
Oregon	Moses Craig, M.S.	Bot.
Pennsylvania	W. A. Buckhout, M.S.	Bot.
South Carolina	A. P. Anderson, Ph.D.	Bot.
South Dakota	De Alton Saunders, M. A.	Bot.
Tennessee	S. M. Bain, B.A.	Bot.
Utah	U. P. Hedrick, M.S.	Bot. & Hort.
Vermont	L. R. Jones, Ph.B.	Bot.
"	W. A. Orton, B.S.	Asst. Bot.
Virginia	W. B. Alwood	Myc., Hort., Ent. and Vice Dir.
Washington	C. V. Piper, M.S.	Bot. and Ent.
Wyoming	Aven Nelson, M.S.	Bot.

There are now fifty-one state experiment stations, one to each state of the list, except Connecticut and New York, which have two each. One of the Connecticut stations employs no botanist, and ten other state stations are also without botanists, viz.: Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. It is presumable, however, that in some cases, and it may be in all, botanical work is carried on by other members of the staff, especially by the horticulturist, biologist or bacteriologist, when such officers are named. In some cases where botany is associated with horticulture or entomology, it is either largely neglected, or receives the greater share of attention, for the subjects are too large to be successfully combined, so that a few names on this list represent but nominal botanists. Yet there are recognized botanists not on the list, like Professor Rolfs of the Florida station, and Dr. Russell of the Wisconsin station, who offset such defection.

A corps of fifty trained botanists, scattered over the breadth of the land should accomplish great good both for agricultural practice and for pure science.

THE VERMONT BOTANICAL CLUB held its third annual meeting at the University of Vermont, February 4 and 5. Among the titles we note the following: Recent tendencies to recognize new species, *President Ezra Brainerd;* Dissemination of plants due to seed structure rather than number, *Miss B. C. Verder;* Among the ferns, *Rev. J. A. Bates;* Notes from field and herbarium, *Mrs. A. J. Grout, Carleton D. Howe, Dr. G. H. Perkins,* and *Professor L. R. Jones;* Common notions of physiological constants, *Professor F. A. Waugh;* On collecting and preparing fleshy fungi for the herbarium, *Dr. E. A. Burt;* Vermont myxomycetes, *Miss F. M. Sutton,* and *Miss L. C. Whitney;* Vermont hepatics, *Clifton D. Howe.*